



To: CINMS Advisory Council

From: Linda Krop, Conservation Representative

Re: Conservation Working Group Report, 9/14/05

The Conservation Working Group (CWG) met on September 13, 2005. Members present: Linda Krop, Chair (Environmental Defense Center); Greg Helms, Vice Chair (The Ocean Conservancy); Jean Holmes (League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara); Kira Schmidt (Santa Barbara Channelkeeper).

Other participants included Shiva Polefka (EDC Research Fellow), Tracey Duffy (CA Coastal Commission); John Kuizenga.

CINMS Staff: Sean Hastings.

I. INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions were made. John Kuizenga announced Coastal Cleanup Day on 9/17 and provided posters.

II. WATER QUALITY

The EDC, on behalf of the CWG, has been working on a Water Quality Needs Assessment for the past year and a half. At the last CWG and SAC meetings, we presented our draft report for review and comment. The primary authors of the report (EDC Research Fellow Shiva Polefka and EDC Intern Sara Polgar) incorporated suggestions and clarifications received from CWG and SAC members, and finalized the report for submittal to the CWG. Shiva summarized the final report, which addresses the following issues: identification of threats; analysis of current research and monitoring efforts; description of existing regulatory and policy frameworks at the local, state and federal levels; description of existing public outreach and education programs; identification of gaps in each of these management and program areas; and recommendations for Sanctuary involvement in protecting water quality. We discussed the recommendations, and added an additional recommendation that the Sanctuary sponsor a Coastal Cleanup Day at the Islands as part of its monitoring efforts.

After the presentation and discussion, a motion was made by Greg Helms to approve the report and submit it to the Sanctuary Council with a request for (1) adoption of the report and submittal

to the Sanctuary Manager; and (2) assuming submittal to the Manager, a request for a report back from the Manager regarding the recommendations. The motion was seconded by Jean Holmes and passed unanimously. We also talked about scheduling a follow-up discussion at the CWG, after approval by the SAC, to prioritize the recommendations so that we can continue to work with the Sanctuary Manager and staff on these issues.

III. FEDERAL MARINE RESERVES

Sean Hastings provided an update regarding the status of the marine reserves process. NOAA expects to make a decision regarding the jurisdictional issue by mid-October. Concerns were raised that if the PFMC has jurisdiction, the regulations would not affect non-fish species and therefore would not meet all of the Sanctuary's goals and objectives in establishing marine reserves; and that the PFMC does not have the resources or the will to provide adequate management, monitoring, enforcement and education regarding the expanded area of marine reserves. It was also pointed out that to have the Sanctuary complete the process, only one regulatory process would be required, whereas if the PFMC assumes jurisdiction, three processes would be required (new state process to ensure that all existing reserves are extended to the three-mile state boundary, a PFMC process to adopt fishing no-take zones, and a CINMS process to cover non-fish species), thus increasing the time and cost before full implementation.

Sean also advised the CWG regarding the status of the effort to monitor the socioeconomic effects of the existing marine reserves. He asked whether the CWG could help sponsor a public workshop that would focus on effects to non-consumptive users. We agree to help notify interested parties and schedule a workshop. *Potential dates are October 18 or 19.*

IV. □ MANAGEMENT PLAN

Sean informed the CWG that the departure of the current National Ocean Service administrator will cause yet another delay in the process. However, the process is far enough along that staff will present an overview of the Management Plan update at the September 23 SAC meeting.

V. □ □ OTHER CINMS ADV. COUNCIL UPDATES & DISCUSSION

Sean handed out the agenda for the 9/23 SAC meeting.

A. □ □ Biogeography Study: The report may be released in October.

B. □ □ Aquaculture: EDC announced that we will have a new intern starting September 15 who will work with us to develop a report regarding open ocean aquaculture, including an analysis of potential impacts to Sanctuary resources and a description of recommendations for Sanctuary involvement and response.